

REMARKS

By this Amendment claims 1, 3, 7 and 13-19 have been canceled; claim 20 has been amended to better define the intended subject matter; claims 2, 4-6, 8-12 have been amended to depend from claim 20; and claims 21-25 have been added. Entry is in order. Note the concurrently filed Letter Re Drawings.

In the outstanding Office Action the examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by JP 9-57,401; he has rejected claims 7-12 and 14-19 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 9-57,401; and he has rejected claims 3 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 90-57,401 in view of JP 63-203,256.

These rejections must be withdrawn. JP 9-57,401 discloses a casting apparatus that includes a braking device in the form of magnetic poles 6a, 6b with a coil-wrapped yoke 6c therebetween. However, the magnetic poles are positioned along the casting direction and a center line of the coil 7a is parallel to the casting direction. This allows easy replacement of the coil. In the present invention the magnetic poles are positioned along the width of long side of the casting device, i.e., perpendicular to the casting direction. And the center line of the coil is also perpendicular to the casting direction. This enables the braking mechanism to be adjusted for different casting mould widths, which is a principal object of the invention. The structure in JP 9-57,401 cannot achieve this.

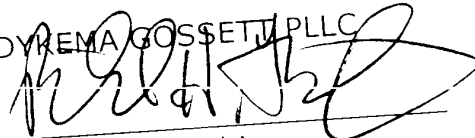
JP 63-203256 discloses a moulding apparatus with braking means similar to that shown in Fig. 1 of the present application. There is certainly no "teaching" in this citation which would suggest reorienting the braking means in JP 9-57,401 by 180°. The examiner's assertion that this would be "nothing more than an obvious matter of design choice" is totally without merit.

Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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